

# Focus on Fifth

## Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

September 30, 2013

[www.op97.org](http://www.op97.org)

### Important Dates

Tall Windy Field Trip	October 4
Fall Conferences	Week of October 7 (half day of school for students Thursday and Friday)
Walk to School Day	October 9

Dear Families,

### INTERNATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL DAY

Wednesday, October 9, 2013 is International Walk to School Day. Students throughout the United States will be walking to school. Here at Holmes we do walking school buses. Students teachers and parents come together creating both large and small walking school buses. Parents and /or Teachers position themselves at the front and rear of the walking buses, while all walking student participants gather in the middle of the walking buses. Students can also lead the walking buses.

Upon entering the school, student walkers also receive an IWALK hand stamp, indicating their participation in the walk to school event. So, parents and teachers mark your calendars for Wednesday, October 9, 2013.

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### SPECIAL AREA SUBJECTS

**Art** - [www.http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com](http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com) 5th grade artists learned about the three types of balance--symmetrical, asymmetrical and radial balance. We focused on radial balance. Radial balance has a center axis and the design radiates from the center and repeats around the axis. We found radial balance in nature in flowers and starfish and also found it in human made objects like bike wheels, pinwheels and clocks. Our artwork uses our name, radially balanced and repeated eight times to create a colorful, unique, abstract, radial design.

**Music** - This past week, we learned a little bit about the music Ancient China during the Shang dynasty when the bamboo flute and pentatonic scale were used. We also finished our drum unit, doing the piece "Water Come A Me Eye" as our assessment. 5F and 5Z have recordings of this song through Three Ring. 5K and 5M will be sharing recordings from our Orff unit (xylophones) next week. **We will start recorders the week of October 7th.** Students may start bringing their recorders into the classroom at any time and I will store them here. All parents with email addresses listed with the school should have received an email from me about [setting up a free Three Ring account](#) so that I can share recordings of your children's performances. This will be my form of a newsletter for the year. If your email is not listed or you did not receive an email, please email me at [akaria@op97.org](mailto:akaria@op97.org) if you are interested in receiving this communication.

**Chorus** - Our first performance will be Saturday, November 23rd at the Oak Park Arms. The notice was sent home last week. If your child did not get it, I will have extras in my room on Monday. We will be singing at the end of the year at a Chicago Sky (women's basketball) game at half time. The date is TBD because the season dates will not be decided on till January. I will need some parental help with this performance. If you are interested please email me at [akaria@op97.org](mailto:akaria@op97.org).

**Spanish** - It was great meeting parents last week at Curriculum Night! The fifth graders are wrapping up their first class story. It will be posted to the blog soon at <http://www.mpoleski.blogspot.com/>.

**Library** - Learning how the library is organized will help your student become an independent information seeker. This week we talked about how fiction is organized, and in the coming weeks, will go in depth on how the rest of the library is organized. *RO Update*: Reading Olympics permission forms were due this past Friday, but I am still accepting forms! Even if your student does not have a full team of three, there are students that are looking for teams. Everyone who wants to participate, can participate in this extracurricular activity. Each student is asked to read only three (but may read all nine) of the books and will partake in a competition at Holmes on Wednesday, December 4, answering questions about the books. Don't forget to look at the library page (<http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/>) for details about RO or email me with questions [mmaneck@op97.org](mailto:mmaneck@op97.org). Happy reading!

**Physical Education** - Please see Mr. Williams' link ([www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com](http://www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com)) for information.

### **Resource**

Ms. Rose has created a new blog for the families of her Resource students. For more information on her activities, please visit: [Ms. Rose- Resource Support](#)

### **Reading/Literature**

We will also discuss the types of things that we read, other than text. This includes illustrations, photographs, data, charts and even emotions. Our focus will be on the connection between images and text and how visuals can increase our reading comprehension.

Our October novel study will begin soon. Every 5th grader in the district will be reading *Bud, Not Buddy*. Your student will be able to borrow this book. Please help your student be responsible for their book so it can be returned when they are done reading.

### **Writing**

This week, students will take a common assessment. Each student will write a short narrative. The narrative will be completed during class.

### **Math**

Students completed the mid-module assessment today. Assessments will be graded and returned to students by the end of the week. We will also go over the assessment tomorrow in class. Tomorrow, we begin working on division. We will start by using place value understanding to divide by powers of 10. We will then work on estimating quotients. We will study division for approximately 2 ½ weeks, which will bring us to the end of the unit.

### **Science**

This week, students will continue to learn about the Earth's systems: the atmosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, and lithosphere. We will analyze the impact humans have on the Earth and the causes of global warming. On Thursday, students will be assessed on 5.RI.3 of the Common Core, which is a common assessment throughout the district. This standard asks students to explain the relationships or interactions between two or more individuals, events, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text based on specific information in the text.

## **Social Studies**

This week, we are continuing to explore our Commons and deciding if we use our resources responsibly. Also, our Current Events project is underway. Please check the Wiki to see when it is your student's week to be a reporter and present a current event he/she finds important and relevant. All the materials are available on our Wiki (<http://5k-socialstudies.wikispaces.com/home>).

## **Spelling/Word Study**

We have completed our individualized spelling diagnostic. We will continue to learn and practice our weekly word work routine.

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

**We're on the Web!**

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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